

PACIFIC PACKET RADIO SOCIETY NEWSLETTER
Volume 2 Number 7 July 1986

Pacific Packet Radio Society (PPRS)
P.O. Box 51562
Palo Alto, Ca. 94303

PPRS meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Ampex Cafeteria, 411 Broadway, Redwood City. Next meeting is July 1st. Newcomers and guests are always welcome.

July 1st Meeting

John Baxter, G4KAH, will be the guest speaker at the July PPRS meeting. His firm, Pacific Microwave, is about to release a new 33 cm (902 MHz) FM transceiver. John will discuss frequency allocations in this newest ham band, propagation, status of other users, and availability of hardware. A second generation microprocessor based rig is being designed, and John is looking for suggestions from the PPRS to enhance its compatibility with packet. This band is virgin territory, and it has been suggested by some packeteers as a good place for our network backbones.

AJ6T>PPRS:

PPRS NEWSLETTER TO MERGE WITH PACKET RADIO MAGAZINE (PRM)...

The PPRS membership voted last month to discontinue our independent newsletter in favor of a PPRS page in *Packet Radio Magazine*. Starting next month, all PPRS members will receive PRM. My first contribution to PRM will be an article on the history of the Pacific Packet Radio Society which will serve to introduce us to the rest of the PRM readership. Did you know that the PPRS is one of the oldest packet clubs in the United States, and that ex-president Hank Magnuski (KA6M) operated the first American digipeater? If any of you OTs have an input for this article, please leave me a message on W6CUS-1 or N6IIU-1 or directly on 145.01 via W6AMT (AJ6T is usually sitting on .01 reading the mail).

W6IXU BBS in Arroyo Grande is now running new software with multiconnect ability. Mike calls it a "Multibox". This certainly is a feature which will become common in the future, but for now W6IXU is the only California mailbox with multiple simultaneous users. Try it, it's fun if you can get through the QRM on 145.01. Report bugs directly to W6IXU.

Speaking of QRM on 145.01, what happened to the WESTNET gentlemen's agreement at the 4th Amateur Radio Computer Networking Conference (San Francisco, March 1985) which reserved .01 for long distance linking and suggested that there should be only one mailbox (W6IXU) on that channel? If nothing else, are you at least fine tuning your TNC parameters to reduce channel congestion? Try throttling back your TNC by setting MAXFRAME=1.

See you next month in PRM. Don't forget that PPRS general meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at Ampex in Redwood City. PRM will not be timely enough for meeting and speaker announcements, so keep an eye on the local BBS for this sort of PPRS information from now on.

73, Walt, AJ6T

WB9LOZ>PPRS:

Digipeater Update

Here are the latest changes on 145.01 through .09 since last month's update.

First of all, a report on a major accomplishment up north. Geri Essig, WB7AWO, has worked Canada from California via packet on 145.01. Using seven digipeaters, she worked VE7BEU in Victoria, British Columbia, on Vancouver Island. She said she worked him via WB7SZM-1 in Ashland, WB6NWP-2 in Grants Pass, KS7Y-1 in Eugene, W7XI-1 Portland, K7ZVV-1 in Longview, Washington, WN7ANK-5 Seattle, and WA7HDI in Oak Harbor.

Now for the new digipeaters and changes: WA6YNG-1 on Shasta Bally up near Redding has moved from .01 to .05 and now sees W6AK-1 very reliably. There's a new mailbox on .01 in Redding, WD6BFC, which can be reached via W6AMT-7 and a new digi on Cuesta Peak on .01, WD6Z-1. It sees W6AMT-1, W6AMT-2, W6IXU and KA6SOX-1.

There's a new mailbox on 145.03, WB7UGZ in Winton over in the San Joaquin Valley. It can be reached via W6BXN.

On 145.05, there are several new digipeaters, in addition to WA6YNG-1. On Cuesta Peak we have N6LYF-1 which sees WA6YLB and KB6C-1, and way down south we have KA6DAC-1 at 9000 foot Monument Peak near San Diego, K6RYA in Le Mesa and W6MNO in San Diego. All can see N6ATQ-1.

There's a new mailbox in Sacramento on 145.07, N2DME which can be reached via N6IJP-1, or if that path is bad, via N6IJP-1, WB6HQE-2.

Lastly, an interesting story, but one that was bad news for Jim, KE6BX... his digipeater on 145.09 (KE6BX-1) is no longer on the air. Located in the wilds down near Salinas, it was attacked by wild pigs and destroyed. He says it might be back on the air when he can find a way to better protect it from the local residents.

Remember for a complete list of all digipeaters and mailboxes, you can download the "Pathfinder", editied by Rick, WA6NHC, from most of the mailboxes.

If you know of any new digipeaters or mailboxes that I haven't listed or if you know of some late changes, let me know via a message on W6CUS-1, N6IIU-1 or KE6BX so that I can include it here in the newsletter.

73, Larry

AI8A>PPRS:

Packet Radio Press

The June and July issues of *CQ Magazine* include a two-part beginner's explanation of packet radio by N2BFG. Look for "Packet Radio -- How To Work It (Not How It Works)" for a thorough introduction on such topics as setting TNC parameters for effective communications, beginning and ending a QSO, and using Packet Bulletin Board Systems (PBBs).

Many of the amateur journals are now running monthly columns on packet radio. 73 now has a monthly column by Harold Price, NK6K. *SPEC-COM* has a new packet column editor in WD4LYV. *CTM* has been running reprints of articles from many packet newsletters in addition to their own original material. *Worldradio* has packet news in both the "Computers and Hams" and "FM & Repeater Newsbeat" in their July issue. Clearly packet radio has become a very hot topic.

The April 1986 issue of the *TAPR PSR Quarterly* contains an introductory article on using state machines

Kantronics Product Announcement

The July issues of several of the amateur publications contain advertisements for a new TNC (KPC-2400) that includes a modem providing 2400 baud communications. They are also offering an upgrade program for current Kantronics TNC owners.

The July issue of *CQ* includes a pair of short articles by Kantronics employees explaining the PSK modulation scheme used.

Auto-Forwarding Mailboxes and Bulletin Boards

Thanks to Bill Danielson, N6FQR, the N6IIU-1 mailbox can now automatically change frequency in the middle of the night. This mailbox, which is normally on 145.07 (above Palo Alto) can now switch to 145.09 without operator intervention. This permits the mailbox to nightly forward and receive messages from some of the other area mailboxes on that frequency, including W6CUS-1 in Richmond and AA4RE-1 in Gilroy.

Several of the area PBBS system operators (SYSOPs) have been cooperating to make certain the bulletins (QSTs) are being distributed from one mailbox to another.

These features make it more and more practical to use only your local mailbox. Why tie up a large area using several digipeaters when there are now geographically separate local area networks (LANs) served by their own machines? Each of these services in turn can pass your messages on during the normally low-useage early morning hours.

For example, suppose I would like to leave a message for Scott, W3VS, who I know is a user of the AA4RE-1 system. Rather than trying a round-about path of two or more digipeaters to get into the Garlic Valley, I can leave a message for him on the (relatively) nearby N6IIU-1 machine. In this case, I would use the command:

S W3VS @ AA4RE

at the BBS's function prompt. This will allow me to enter a message for Scott, which will be automatically forwarded to the AA4RE-1 system (note that the SSID is not needed in the command). Complete information on using the auto-forwarding feature is available on the BBSs. I encourage you to try it. I think you will find that it is easy to take advantage of, and has the benefit of reducing some of the long range channel congestion.

Personal Mailboxes

Another way to take advantage of packet radio is using a "personal mailbox" or software that can receive auto-forwarded messages from a WORLI compatible BBS. This can permit "time-shifting" messages for your convenience instead of requiring you to find a quiet time to reach the nearest large mailbox. This time-shifting has the added benefit of moving the transmission of the messages into normally unused time slots.

In its simplest form, this does not need to be any more than a cleverly formed connect message and a way to capture incoming text and a commitment to leave your TNC on during forwarding hours. The TNC2 manual describes the basic technique. You could use a printing terminal or a simple terminal emulator program with a "Capture" feature.

Another possibility is the TRS80 Model 100 Mini-PBBS written by N1AED. This BASIC program provides a workable subset of the commands of the popular WORLI BBS. It can be used to store messages for up to 16 different users. System users can retrieve messages directed to them or bulletins addressed to ALL. The system is not intended to replace major bulletin board systems, but it does provide a useful supplement to them. It is most useful for messages to and from the system owner, and perhaps a few other users in the vicinity. Copies of this program are available on the area BBSs. Also available is a file of changes and enhancements I have made to the program. (Special thanks are due to Roy, AA4RE, in his patience in helping me track down a difference in the format of the forwarding commands used by the WORLI and its IBM clone.)

PPRS Members

05-26-1986

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Call	First Name	City	St
	Herbert	Palo Alto	CA
AI8A	Jim	Los Gatos	CA
AJ6T	Walter	San Jose	CA
DU1POL	Paul	Phillipines	
K2BIO	Don	San Ramon	CA
K6LXN	Dick	San Jose	CA
K6RNO	William	Los Altos	CA
K6TP	Robert	San Francisco	CA
K6VCO	Stuart	Redwood City	CA
KA6ERF	Sel	Napa	CA
KA6KYU	Kurt	Redwood City	CA
KA6M	Hank	Palo Alto	CA
KA6NEO	John	Eureka	CA
KA6OFA		Hillsborough	CA
KA6TGE	Don	Santa Clara	CA
KA6YFB	Michael	Palo Alto	CA
KB6AKC	Stanley	Saratoga	CA
KB6BA	Oliver	Sunnyvale	CA
KB6FED	Brad	Burlingame	CA
KB6FVA	David	Redwood City	CA
KB6LCR	Eric	Applegate	CA
KB6ZV	Rod	San Jose	CA
KE6KT	Earl	Lancaster	CA
KE6ZE	David	San Jose	CA
KF6KV	William	Campbell	CA
KH6FIC		Santa Rosa	CA
N6BAH	William	San Jose	CA
N6DBT	Chuck	Pleasanton	CA
N6FKY	Jim	Pleasant Hill	CA
N6FQR	Bill	Palo Alto	CA
N6HNY	James	Cupertino	CA
N6IA	Stephen	Sunnyvale	CA
N6IIW	Richard	Hercules	CA
N6IYJ	Peter	San Leandro	CA
N6KL	David	Campbell	CA
N6KLL	John	San Jose	CA
N6LAM	Leland	Magalia	CA
N6MZV	Robert	Cupertino	CA
N6NAT		Campbell	CA
NI6A	Don	El Cerrito	CA
VE3FZK	Andrew	Redwood City	CA
VE7CYD	John	Redwood City	CA
W1UUQ	William	Goleta	CA
W3VS	Scott	Morgan Hill	CA
W6ACW	Ed	Sunnyvale	CA
W6CB	Warren	San Carlos	CA
W6CUB	Dave	San Jose	CA
W6EMX	Floyd	San Carlos	CA
W6EZA	John	Castro Valley	CA

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Call	First Name	City	St
W6FAK	Kenneth	Pleasanton	CA
W6IRA	Gary	Sunnyvale	CA
W6JHJ	Robert	Mountain View	CA
W6MJT	Robert	Sonora	CA
W6NJR	Frank	Saratoga	CA
W6OA	Don	Livermore	CA
W6SNV	Joe	Saratoga	CA
W6VML	Buren	San Jose	CA
WA2UNP	Malcolm	Berkeley	CA
WA6AOD	Ed	Palo Alto	CA
WA6BXN	John	Weaverville	CA
WA6FSP	Bill	Sunnyvale	CA
WA6FWW	Jim	Antioch	CA
WA6NHC	Rick	Petaluma	CA
WA6NWE	James	N. Highlands	CA
WA6PWT	Ronald	Campbell	CA
WA6SWK	Arthur	Burlingame	CA
WA6WEB	Mike	San Jose	CA
WA6WLE	David	La Honda	CA
WA6YSO	David	Redwood City	CA
WA7SHI	Gary	Corvallis	CA
WB2GDQ	Stephen	Stanford	CA
WB6ASR	Greg	San Jose	CA
WB6BPU	Louis	Milpitas	CA
WB6CGW	Phil	Cupertino	CA
WB6EQO	Robert	San Jose	CA
WB6JIW	Patrick	Oakland	CA
WB6KHP	David	San Jose	CA
WB6KQU	Bill	Fremont	CA
WB6QVU	Kitchell	San Francisco	CA
WB6WBG	William	Fremont	CA
WB7AWO	Geri	Hornbrook	CA
WB9LOZ	Larry	San Francisco	CA
WD6CMU	Eric	El Cerrito	CA
WD6EKQ	Ressie	Salinas	CA

N6FQR>PPRS:

PPRS Membership Roster

Included with this issue of the PPRS Newsletter is a copy of the latest available PPRS membership roster.

AI8A>PPRS:

Amateur Satellite Information Available

Ross Forbes, WB6GFJ, presented a description of the present and future of the radio amateur satellite program at the June PPRS meeting. If you would like to read more about the satellites, the local user's group offers a newsletter every other month. The newsletter is available at no charge, simply by sending two or three self-addressed, stamped envelopes (regular business-sized envelopes) to:

San Francisco Bay Area OSCAR-10 Users Group
c/o Ross W. Forbes, WB6GFJ
Post Office Box 1
Los Altos, CA 94023-0001

Also, Project OSCAR now has an English translation of the Japanese JAS-1 Satellite Handbook. This manual contains a complete history of the project, information on using the satellite (due to be launched near the end of July), and decoding the telemetry. It includes details (including schematic) of a TNC interface to allow use of the satellite's digital transponder. The JAS-1 Satellite Handbook is available for \$10.00 (including postage and handling) from:

JAS-1 Satellite Handbook
Project OSCAR, Inc.
Post Office Box 1136
Los Altos, CA 94023-1136

Information on RUDAK, the "digipeater" that will be carried aloft by Phase 3C is also available now thanks to WB6GFJ. Copies of data on the history and progress of the design and construction of the experiment, and modulation scheme used are now available on the bulletin boards.

KA6M Packet Central DG (Data General) Closes

The KA6M DG bulletin board system is no longer available after many years of valuable service. Originally put on the air by means of packet in the very early days of packet radio in the bay area so that users could be assured of having someone to talk to (!), it served as a focal point for a nearly all of the local activity. In recent months, it has been accessible only by telephone, its packet radio functions replaced by the easier to use WORLI-type bulletin board systems. Many thanks are due to Hank, KA6M, for having provided this service during the embryonic stage of packet.

HamNet Online

PPRS member Scott Loftesness, W3VS, is editing a new electronic magazine on CompuServe. The *HamNet Online Magazine* is dedicated to the interests of hams and shortwave listeners. It is accessible to all CompuServe subscribers by entering GO HAM at any (!) prompt. This service supplements the existing HamNet Forum with timely ham radio related news stories, introductory information on ham radio and shortwave listening hobbies, and plans to make available electronic copies of club newsletters.

Ham Oriented Phone BBS in South Bay

Steve Wilson, KA6S, runs a telephone-accessible bulletin board (FidoNet Net 143, Node 10) which is dedicated mostly to topics concerning Ham Radio such as packet and DXing.
(408) 262-5174

MFJ 1270 Ships

The low cost TNC2 clone distributed by MFJ is a reality. Small quantities have appeared on dealers' shelves (and quickly disappeared).

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First Class

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